



## WARRIOR PROFILE



**NAME** ANTHONY MICHAEL RIOS, JR.

**Rank** E-7/Gunnery Sergeant

**Status** Veteran

**Service Branch and MOS** USMC/0861 Fire Support Man

**Hometown** Los Angeles, California

**Current Location** Oceanside, California

**Injury or Illness** PTSD, TBI, L Leg Above/below knee injury

**Event(s)** Cycling, Shooting, and Sitting Volleyball

## PERSONAL PROFILE

Gunnery Sgt. Rios was born in Los Angeles, Calif. He enlisted in the Marine Corps on November 5, 1996. He would eventually go on to become an artillery scout observer, and serve four combat tours as a firepower control team chief/leader for various air naval gunfire liaison companies.

During his time in hostile environments, Gunnery Sgt. Rios operated in 2-5 man teams, acquired targets for air and artillery assets, conducted raids/patrols, reconnaissance and intelligence missions, interrogated enemy combatants, and engaged in numerous gunfights. He was exposed to small arms fire, improvised explosive devices, automatic/sniper fire, and rocket propelled grenades (RPG). He has had to call in many enemy and friendly casualty evacuations, even his own. On May 8, 2010, during close enemy contact in Marjah, Afghanistan, an RPG was fired on him and shrapnel entered his left knee. The injury would leave him with a broken femur and shifted knee cap. The firefight lasted 45 minutes, where he remained composed and continued his duties until the med-evac arrived.

On December 30, 2014, as a Purple Heart recipient and over 18 years of honorable service, Gunnery Sgt. Rios medically retired from the Marine Corps. With the help of his service dog "Bugsy", he volunteers for speaking roles on behalf of organizations that support wounded, ill, or injured Marines and Soldiers. On top of being a father and college student, he participates in competitive sporting events with other injured veterans in hopes of becoming a Paralympian. The Warrior Games give Gunnery Sgt. Rios a sense of future possibilities, as well as, a feeling of reunion with the great accomplishments of his past.

Despite his visible and invisible injuries, Gunnery Sgt. Rios wishes to suffer them with silence and dignity, this is how he chooses to honor those who will forever be part of him and his legacy, he refuses to "live under a bridge..." His only want is to spend the remainder of his life raising his family and remaining vigilant for the next great thing.

